

**To:** Wells, Suzanne[Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Gartner, Lois[Gartner.Lois@epa.gov]; Mahmud, Shahid[Mahmud.Shahid@epa.gov]  
**From:** Dreyfus, Melissa G.  
**Sent:** Mon 8/10/2015 4:52:57 PM  
**Subject:** RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Thanks, Suzanne. Shahid, if you don't know the answer to the questions regarding mines holding contaminated water, perhaps we can point to which agency holds this authority? The second question seems to pertain specifically to abandoned mines: Are abandoned mines, like Gold King, monitored? Would this response entail some wording on five year reviews?

**Melissa Greer Dreyfus**

**Environmental Health Scientist**

**Community Involvement and Program Initiatives Branch**

**Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**Phone: 703-603-8792**

**email: dreyfus.melissa@epa.gov**

**From:** Wells, Suzanne  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 12:45 PM  
**To:** Dreyfus, Melissa G.  
**Cc:** Gartner, Lois; Mahmud, Shahid  
**Subject:** RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Melissa,

I've cc:ed Shahid so he can see this inquiry. I don't know if Shahid knows the answer to this reporter's questions. There might be someone in RCRA or possibly one of the land management agencies who knows the answer.

Suzanne Wells

Chief, Community Involvement and Program Initiatives Branch

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**From:** Dreyfus, Melissa G.

**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 12:42 PM

**To:** Wells, Suzanne

**Cc:** Gartner, Lois

**Subject:** FW: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Suzanne,

I forwarded this request to Shahid, but should it also go to OEM?

**Melissa Greer Dreyfus**

**Environmental Health Scientist**

**Community Involvement and Program Initiatives Branch**

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**From:** Cohen, Nancy

**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 12:09 PM

**To:** Dreyfus, Melissa G.

**Cc:** Wells, Suzanne; Gartner, Lois

**Subject:** FW: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Melissa: I want to follow the correct process on press inquiries related to the Aminos River spill but don't want to lose time either. So here's an inquiry we received from OPA. We may also get it via the EOC.

Thanks, nancy

Nancy Cohen

U.S. EPA OSWER

202.566.0171

**From:** Daguiard, Robert

**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 11:31 AM

**To:** Smith, Paula; Faulk, Libby; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Mylott, Richard; Cohen, Nancy

**Subject:** OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill

All, I've sent this inquiry to Region 8 already, but it looks as though OSWER might want to take a look at the first two questions. Please let me know.

If we could get a response by COB Today, the reporter could run the story in tomorrow's paper. Please advise. Thanks, R.

**From:** Karl Mathiesen  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 7:45 AM  
**To:** Daguillard, Robert  
**Subject:** Guardian media enquiry

Hi Robert,

I'm a journalist with the Guardian writing a piece on the release from the Gold King Mine in Colorado.

I have a few questions on the background of the situation. Please do your best to answer them all.

On the general state of tailings dams and mines. How many such storage facilities are there across the country? How does the EPA monitor the maintenance and condition of mines and dams that are holding contaminated water? Are abandoned mines, like Gold King, monitored?

It has been reported that the EPA has been trying to designate the area as a superfund area for some time. When was the idea first floated? Why was it unsuccessful? Does the EPA believe the spill would have occurred regardless of the lack of superfund designation? Would that have changed the way the clean up was undertaken (ie would there have been more money available and therefore less likelihood of a failure?)?

Best,

Karl

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Karl Mathiesen

London